instead of issuing on the basis of spot findings of the Committee of Officers nominated for the purpose. This would create a little inconvenience to the consumers in places where smaller capacity godowns are located.

proposal to increase minimum statutory price of sugarcane

174. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleassed to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to increase the minimum statutory price of sugarcane;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what will be its impact on the price of sugar?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DVENDRA PRASAD VADAY): (a) to (c) The Government had already announced on 11.3.1996 the Statutory Minimum price of sugarcane payable by sugar factories for the sugar season 1996-97 at Rs. 45.90 per quintal linked to a basic recovery of 8.5% sugar subject to a premium of Rs. 0.57 for every 0.1 percentage point increase in the recoery above that level. There is no proposal to increase the same.

Scam of Rs. 100 crores by Fci

175. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scam involving over Rs. 100 crores in relation to distribution of wheat by the Food Corporation of India has lately been detected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; indicating the modus operandi of the scam, the amount of wheat and money found cornered therein; and

(c) the officers found involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONCUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTIONS (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD VADAV): (a) to (c) On the basis of investigaiton done by the Distt., Police Authorities, rohtak (haryana) acase FIR 10 date 6h Janury, 1997 agaisnt Senior Regional Manager, FCI, Haryana and others under Section 420/109/199/200/120-B IPC, 7/10/55/EC Act and 3 (1) (b) of Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 was registered at Police Statcion, Civil Lines, Rohtak, Haryana. The main allegation in the FIR is that wheat was allotted by Sr. Regional Manager, FCI, Haryana by taking bride, to the traders and profiteers. The FIR names the then Sr. Regional Manager, FCI, haryana and two other FCI officials apart from the private parties. The wheat allocated for open sale under OMSS (D) is reported to have been sold to different parties at exorbitant rates. Exact quantity of wheat and amount involved would be known only after the investigation being conducted by the State Police Authorities has been completed.

Import of wheat at the cost Double of procurement price

176. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had ordered the import of wheat recently at landed cost of Rs. 8.50 per kg.;

(b) whether this price is almost the double of the procurement price prevailing in India;

(c) whether this is also a fact that samples of wheat from Canada shipment

have failed under the provisions of Prevention of Adulteration Act; and

(d) if so, the action proposed in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD VADAV): (a) No, Sir. The average C&F cost of imported wheat at present cones to Rs. 6227 per MT (approximately). The actual landed cost of the imported wheat can be calculated only after the entire quantity of imported wheat has been received.

(b) The Minimum Support Price of Wheat fixed by the Governemnt for 1996-97 and 1997-98 are Rs. 380 per quintal and Rs. 415 per quintal respectively. The FCI's economic cost for the country as a whole during 1996-97 is likely to be around Rs. 650 per quintal.

(c) No, Sir. No ship has yet sailed with imported wheat from Canada for India.

(d) Does not arise.

Logistic problems in importing wheat at Indian Ports

177. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are logistic problems in importing wheat at our ports;

(b) if so, the details of such problems faced by Government with regard to recent wheat imports; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to devise new strategies to ease logistic problems in handling of imported grains?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There are certain logistic problems at our ports as, apart from wheat, other imported cargoes are also to be handled simultaneously. Apart from the port handling capacities, the areas where the wheat would be required to be moved, availability of railway wagons and FCI infrastructure have also to be taken into account. Government have arranged priority berthing of the wheat vessels at all major ports and the ports have also been advised to accord priority to wheat vessels wherever necessary. FCI will be utilising suitable major and minor ports for discharge of imported wheat cargo. A well planned handling operation is also in progress. The delay in berthing of vessels at Canadian ports due to inclement weather there is likely to lead to bunching at our ports. A Task Force with representatives of Ministries of Surface Transport, Fertilisers, Railways, STC and FCI etc. have also been constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Deptt. of Food Procurement & Distribution to discuss the operational problems and to seek time bound solutions. The Task Force is meeting regularly for this purpose.

Revamping of FCI

178. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to revamp Food Corporation of India (FCI) in view of alleged corruption and inefficiency in the organisation; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and the time by when it will be done?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) FCI proposes to take the following steps to minimise corruption and inefficiency in the Organisation:

(i) Increase in number of checks of its depots.